

Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Environmental Impact Statement

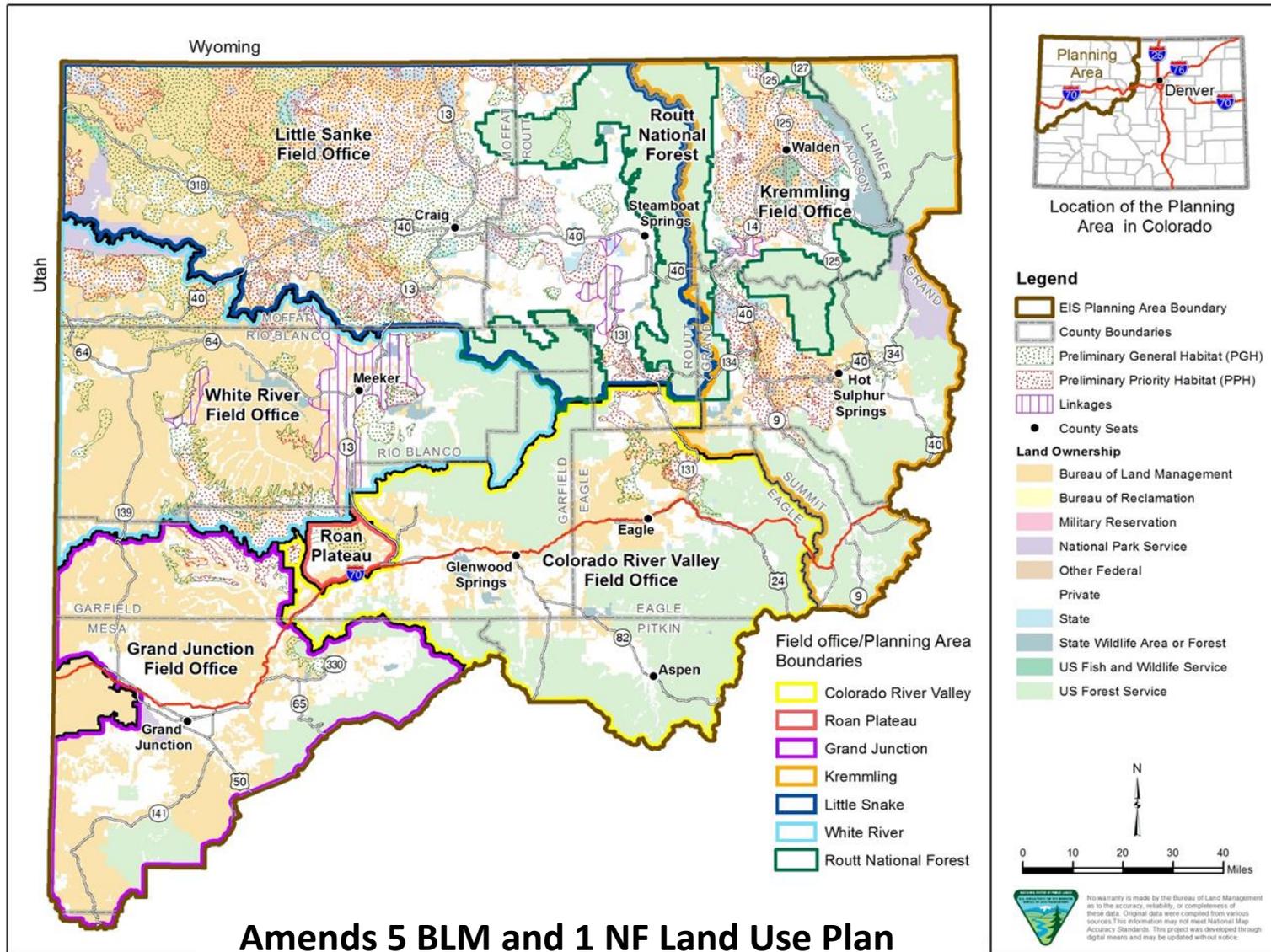
BLM - Forest Service
Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy



**Northwest Colorado
Resource Advisory Council Briefing
August 22, 2013**



Preliminary Priority Habitat, Preliminary General Habitat, and Linkage/Connectivity Habitat



Colorado Issues

- **Colorado population defines the South-East range of the species**
- **All Designated Habitat (regardless of ownership) = About 4.1 million acres**
- **Decision Area (BLM/FS surface) = About 1.7 million acres (USFS = About 20,000 acres)**
- **Decision Area (Federal Mineral Estate) = About 2.9 million acres**
- **Major Threats/Concerns**
 - **Habitat Fragmentation**
 - **Fluid Minerals Management**
 - **Rights-of-way; including transmission**
 - **Livestock grazing**
 - **Locatable and Salable Minerals**
 - **Fire Management**
 - **Invasive Species**

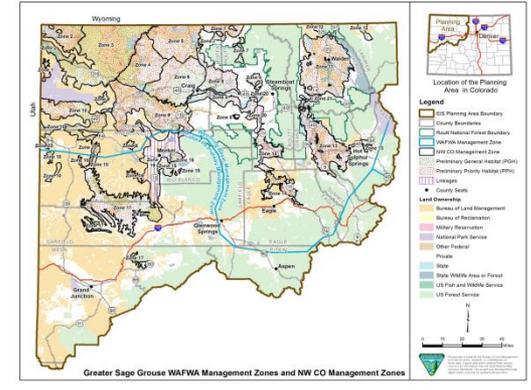


Alternatives

- **Alternative A – No-Action**
 - An articulation of the 5 existing BLM Resource Management Plans and the Routt National Forest Plan
- **Alternative B – NTT Measures**
- **Alternative C – Conservation**
 - As developed by the Great Basin Working Group
- **Alternative D – Colorado Sub-Regional**
 - Developed with the NW Colorado Cooperating Agencies



Zone Management Function



Objective: Maintain or enhance the habitat and grouse population in each Management Zone.

- **Disturbance Caps would be managed by management zone.**
- **Grouse populations would be monitored and evaluated by management Zone**
- **Note: A preliminary inventory of disturbance for each zone is included in the draft. Final inventories would be completed on a priority basis; the Wyoming density disturbance calculation tool would be used on a project basis until the final base inventory is complete.**



Disturbance Cap Management

Cap	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Anthropogenic	None	3% Cap on Priority Habitat	3% Cap on All Designated Habitat	5% Cap on Ecological Sites that Support Sagebrush
Total	None	No Similar Action*	No Similar Action	Manage for a total disturbance cap of less than 30%, to include all loss of sagebrush from all causes including anthropogenic, disturbance, wildfire plowed field agriculture and vegetation treatments.

- * NTT objective is to manage or restore priority areas so that at least 70% of the land cover provides adequate sagebrush habitat to meet sage-grouse needs.
- The Total Cap is a key feature of the Fire and Fuels Management sections for Alternative D
- Cap management could be accomplished using the same type of Data Management System (DMS) program that the White River Field Office uses to track disturbances in big game winter range.



9 NWCO Cooperating Agency Meetings Held

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Garfield County
- Grand County
- Jackson County
- Mesa County
- Moffat County
- Rio Blanco County
- Routt County
- USDA NRCS
- Denver Water Board
- White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts
- Colorado Department of Natural Resources
- Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado





Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Fluid Minerals			
Wide Variety but mostly CSU	No Leasing in Priority Habitat	No leasing in All Designated Habitat	No Surface Occupancy in Priority Habitat
Realty			
Highly variable by the individual LUP	Exclusion on Priority Habitat	Exclusion on all Designated Habitat	Exclusion for Large KV (>230kV) lines in priority habitat; with one Avoidance area; Smaller ROWs are "avoidance."
Range and Wild Horses			
Variable	Numerous provisions guiding the authorizing grazing and range project development applied predominantly to Priority Habitat	No Livestock Grazing	Many NTT provisions applied to All Designated Habitat

Design Features

Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D *
Best Management Practices	“Required Design Features” except when “Suggested Design Features” are specified in the Locatable Minerals Sections	Same as B	“Preferred Design Features” required when deemed Necessary, Appropriate and Technically Feasible.

* Rationale for not applying Preferred Design Features would be required in site specific NEPA



NWCO GRSG EIS Next Steps

- **Current Status: Draft LUPA/EIS**
- **Draft Public Comment Period:**
 - August 16, 2013-November 14, 2013
 - **Public Meetings:**
 - Craig, October 15th
 - Silt, October 17th
 - Walden, October 22nd
 - Lakewood, October 24th
- **Final: Spring 2014**
- **ROD: Late Summer 2014**



Questions and Discussion

